

107TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1894

To supplement current activities in the exchange of agricultural and farming expertise by establishing a grant program to support bilateral exchange programs whereby African American and other American farmers share technical knowledge with African and Caribbean Basin farmers regarding maximization of crop yields, use of risk management tools, expansion of agricultural trade, use of new financial instruments to increase access to credit, and other ways to improve farming methods, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 17, 2001

Mrs. CLAYTON (for herself, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BEREUTER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. LEACH, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. OSBORNE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BISHOP, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. BALDACCI, Mr. HOUGHTON, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To supplement current activities in the exchange of agricultural and farming expertise by establishing a grant program to support bilateral exchange programs whereby African American and other American farmers share technical knowledge with African and Caribbean Basin farmers regarding maximization of crop yields, use of risk management tools, expansion of agricultural trade,

use of new financial instruments to increase access to credit, and other ways to improve farming methods, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Farmers to Africa and  
5 the Caribbean Basin Act of 2001”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) Many African farmers and farmers in Car-  
9       ibbean Basin countries use antiquated techniques to  
10       produce their crops, which results in poor crop qual-  
11       ity and low crop yields.

12              (2) Many of these farmers are losing business  
13       to farmers in European and Asian countries who use  
14       advanced planting and production techniques and  
15       are supplying agricultural produce to restaurants,  
16       resorts, tourists, grocery stores, and other con-  
17       sumers in Africa and Caribbean Basin countries.

18              (3) A need exists for the training of African  
19       farmers and farmers in Caribbean Basin countries  
20       and other developing countries in state-of-the-art  
21       farming techniques regarding standard growing  
22       practices, insecticide and sanitation procedures, and

1 other farming methods that will produce increased  
2 yields of more nutritious and healthful crops.

3 (4) African-American and other American farm-  
4 ers, including banking and insurance professionals,  
5 are a ready source of agribusiness expertise that  
6 would be invaluable for African farmers and farmers  
7 in Caribbean Basin countries.

8 (5) A United States commitment is appropriate  
9 to support the development of a comprehensive agri-  
10 cultural skills training program for these farmers  
11 that focuses on—

12 (A) improving knowledge of insecticide and  
13 sanitation procedures to prevent crop destruc-  
14 tion;

15 (B) teaching modern farming techniques,  
16 including the identification and development of  
17 standard growing practices and the establish-  
18 ment of systems for recordkeeping, that would  
19 facilitate a continual analysis of crop produc-  
20 tion;

21 (C) the use and maintenance of state-of-  
22 the-art farming equipment;

23 (D) expansion of small farming operations  
24 into agribusiness enterprises through the devel-  
25 opment and use of village banking systems and

1 the use of agricultural risk insurance pilot prod-  
2 ucts, resulting in increased access to credit for  
3 these farmers; and

4 (E) marketing crop yields to prospective  
5 purchasers (businesses and individuals) for local  
6 needs and export.

7 (6) The participation of African-American and  
8 other American farmers and American agricultural  
9 farming specialists in such a training program prom-  
10 ises the added benefit of improving access to African  
11 and Caribbean Basin markets for American farmers  
12 and United States farm equipment and products and  
13 business linkages for United States insurance pro-  
14 viders offering agricultural risk insurance products  
15 and technical assistance.

16 (7) Existing programs that promote the ex-  
17 change of agricultural knowledge and expertise  
18 through the exchange of American and foreign farm-  
19 ers have been effective in promoting improved agri-  
20 cultural techniques and food security and thus the  
21 extension of additional resources to such farmer to  
22 farmer exchanges is warranted.

23 **SEC. 3. FARMERS FOR AFRICA AND CARIBBEAN BASIN PRO-**  
24 **GRAM.**

25 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           (1) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of Agriculture.

3           (2) AGRICULTURAL FARMING SPECIALIST.—The  
4           term “agricultural farming specialist” means an in-  
5           dividual trained to transfer information and tech-  
6           nical support relating to agribusiness, food security,  
7           the mitigation and alleviation of hunger, the mitiga-  
8           tion of agricultural and farm risk, maximization of  
9           crop yields, agricultural trade, and other needs spe-  
10          cific to a geographical location as determined by the  
11          Secretary.

12          (3) ELIGIBLE FARMER.—The term “eligible  
13          farmer” means an individual owning or working on  
14          farm land (as defined by a particular country’s laws  
15          relating to property) in the sub-Saharan region of  
16          the continent of Africa, in a Caribbean Basin coun-  
17          try, or in any other developing country in which the  
18          Secretary determines there is a need for farming ex-  
19          pertise or for information or technical support de-  
20          scribed in paragraph (2).

21          (4) CARIBBEAN BASIN COUNTRY.—The term  
22          “Caribbean basin country” means a country eligible  
23          for designation as a beneficiary country under sec-  
24          tion 212 of the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery  
25          Act (19 U.S.C. 2702).

1           (5) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means  
2       the Farmers for Africa and Caribbean Basin Pro-  
3       gram established under this section.

4       (b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary  
5       shall establish a grant program, to be known as the  
6       “Farmers for Africa and Caribbean Basin Program”, to  
7       assist eligible organizations in carrying out bilateral ex-  
8       change programs whereby African-American and other  
9       American farmers and American agricultural farming spe-  
10      cialists share technical knowledge with eligible farmers  
11      regarding—

12           (1) maximization of crop yields;

13           (2) use of agricultural risk insurance as finan-  
14      cial tools and a means of risk management (as al-  
15      lowed by Annex II of the World Trade Organization  
16      rules);

17           (3) expansion of trade in agricultural products;

18           (4) enhancement of local food security;

19           (5) the mitigation and alleviation of hunger;

20      and

21           (6) other ways to improve farming in countries  
22      in which there are eligible farmers.

23      (c) ELIGIBLE GRANTEES.—The Secretary may make  
24      a grant under the Program to—

1           (1) a college or university, including a histori-  
2           cally black college or university, or a foundation  
3           maintained by a college or university; and

4           (2) a private organization or corporation, in-  
5           cluding grassroots organizations, with an established  
6           and demonstrated capacity to carry out such a bilat-  
7           eral exchange program.

8           (d) TERMS OF PROGRAM.—(1) It is the goal of the  
9           Program that at least 1,000 farmers participate in the  
10          training program by December 31, 2005, of which at least  
11          800 will be African farmers or farmers in Caribbean Basin  
12          countries and 200 will be American farmers.

13          (2) Training under the Program will be provided to  
14          eligible farmers in groups to ensure that information is  
15          shared and passed on to other eligible farmers. Eligible  
16          farmers will be trained to be specialists in their home com-  
17          munities and will be encouraged not to retain enhanced  
18          farming technology for their own personal enrichment.

19          (3) Through partnerships with American businesses,  
20          the Program will utilize the commercial industrial capa-  
21          bility of businesses dealing in agriculture to train eligible  
22          farmers on state-of-the-art equipment and to introduce eli-  
23          gible farmers to the use of insurance as a risk manage-  
24          ment tool.

1       (e) SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS.—(1) The selection  
2 of eligible farmers, as well as African-American and other  
3 American farmers and agricultural farming specialists, to  
4 participate in the Program shall be made by grant recipi-  
5 ents using an application process approved by the Sec-  
6 retary.

7       (2) Participating farmers must meet certain edu-  
8 cational requirements and targets regarding the produc-  
9 tivity of their farm or agribusiness.

10      (f) GRANT PERIOD.—The Secretary may make  
11 grants under the Program during a period of 5 years be-  
12 ginning on October 1 of the first fiscal year for which  
13 funds are made available to carry out the Program.

14      (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
16 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2002 through 2006.

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